

Author's Credibility

A. Directions: From the choices below each topic, select the author who could tell you more about the topic. Circle the letter of the *best* answer.

1. **Topic:** Anthony Burns, an escaped slave from Virginia who was arrested in Boston
 - a. Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa
 - b. Virginia Hamilton, who wrote about African Americans
2. **Topic:** finding and exploring the *Titanic*, the ship that sank in 1912
 - a. Joseph Bruchac, who collects Native American myths and stories
 - b. Robert Ballard, an oceanographer who uses underwater robots
3. **Topic:** living through the Depression, the period of business failures and joblessness in the 1930s
 - a. Russell Baker, who had a hard time earning money for his family when he sold magazines at age seven in 1932
 - b. Bill Bryson, author of *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, about the physical world

B. Directions: Read both boxed statements. Then use them to answer the questions that follow.

Statement 1: “I know that a bigger variety of produce in my meals means more protection from cancer.”

[from a newsletter published by the American Institute for Cancer Research, a nonprofit organization. Gentry is the newsletter’s editor.]

Statement 2: “Yet despite the often adamant advice, scientists say they really do not know whether dietary changes will make a difference.”

[The passage is from an article published in the *New York Times* in September 2005. Kolata is a science reporter for that newspaper.]

4. Which author has a wider readership? Give evidence to support your decision. _____
5. Which author makes reference to sources with more credibility? Explain your answer. _____
6. Which author gives the *least* biased view? Explain your answer. _____